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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /117 W
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R 131616Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1190
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MOPS, INS, CG, OAU, CB
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BONGO ON AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1179 (NOTAL) (B) LIBREVILLE 1553

1. PRESIDENT BONGO SAID JUNE 11 THAT HIS PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE WAS MADE IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF GABON AND NOT AS OAU CHAIRMAN ACCORDING TO EXCERPTS OF AFP INTERVIEW PUBLISHED HERE JUNE 13. WHEN SHABA HAD BEEN ATTACKED, BONGO SAID HE HAD APPEALED TO OAU MEMBER STATES TO SUPPORT ZAIRE WITH MILITARY, MEDICAL AND FOOD ASSISTANCE. IT WAS LATER, AT FRANCOPHONE CONFERENCE, WHEN MASSACRES OF INNOCENT WHITES AND BLACKS BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT HE PROPOSED IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A PAN AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE. REPEATING AN ALREADY FAMILIAR THEME THAT CREATION OF SUCH A FORCE WAS NOT A NEW IDEA, BONGO RECALLED THAT KWAME NKRUMAH HAD ONCE SUGGESTED THE SAME THING. HE THEN COUNTERATTACKED CRITICS OF INTERVENTION FORCE.
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BONGO SAID THE REAL PUPPETS AND TRAITORS OF AFRICA WERE NOT THOSE SUCH AS GABON WHICH COOPERATED WITH THEIR FORMER COLONIZERS, BUT THOSE WHICH FORGET THEIR PAST AND THROW THEMSELVES INTO THE CLUTCHES OF NEWCOMERS WHO PROVIDE ARMS TO KEEP THEM IN POWER AND EVEN ATTACK THEIR NEIGHBORS. GABON AND THE STATES CONTRIBUTING TO THE AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID BONGON HAD ALLIED THEMSELVES

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WITH A WELL-KNOWN FRIEND WITH WHICH THEY HAD STRONG HISTORIC TIES.

2. COMMENT: BONGO TOOK PARTICULAR CARE TO EMPHASIZE THAT HIS AFRICAN INTERVENTION SUGGESTION WAS NOT ISSUED UNDER OAU MANTLE AND THAT HIS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THIS ACTION WAS ONLY TO THE GABONESE PEOPLE AND NOT TO ALL OAU MEMBER STATES. BY SO DVNG HE APPEARS TO WANT TO AVOID CRITICISM THAT HE MISUSED HIS OAU CHAIRMANSHIP, THERENY DIVIDING OAU MEMBERS ON QUESTION OF AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE AND POSSIBLY THREATENING SURVIVAL OF ORGANIZATION ITSELF.TIENKEN

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